

Coolmore (Powell House)
Tarboro vicinity
Edgecombe County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-59

HABS
NC
33-TARB.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office
for Southeast Unit

COOLMORE (POWELL HOUSE)
Tarboro vicinity, Edgecombe County, North Carolina

HABS
N.C.
33-TARCOM
1-

Owner: J. C. Powell

Date of erection: 1857-61

Present condition: Good, unaltered except for porch

Architect: E. G. Lind of Baltimore

Description:

Frame; two stories; hipped and gabled roof; large cupola. Front three bays, center bay recessed and containing the entrance door with glazed sidelights and transom; Palladian-type window above. Center bay flanked by slightly projecting pavilions with low gable roofs. All windows arched and paired, the lower with bracketed hoods. The roof has a very wide overhang supported on brackets.

In plan there is a small center entrance hall of apsidal form, the walls of which are ornamented by series of Corinthianesque pilasters and a pair of blue and grey marbleized niches. The walls and ceiling are painted in panels. To the right and left are single doors to the parlors, which are nearly identical. They have marble mantles against the center wall with large grained rosewood mirrors above. The windows on the two outside walls have gilt valance boards from which hang the original damask curtains. The floors are covered with flowered and paneled carpets. The furniture has rosewood frames and damask upholstery. All the interior furnishings, including the oilcloth for the entrance hall, are original, and the receipted bills for them survive. Behind the entrance hall is an oval stair hall in which a spiral stair ascends to the cupola.

Additional data:

The house was built by the present owner's grandfather in 1857-61 from designs by a Baltimore architect, E. G. Lind. Much correspondence between the builder and architect is preserved in the house, together with orders for the furnishings and bills for slaves for the plantation for about \$50,000.

Author:

Approved: